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render these folios almost matchless as contributions to natural science, and to picturesque art for the library or for the parlor table. The sad death of one of the authors, in early life, and in sight of the goal of success, has added an appeal to our sympathy to the just claims of the work upon public appreciation. Miss Jones died last August, of a fever doubtless aggravated by her earnest efforts and mental anxiety concerning her work, though that portion of her labor already accomplished will be incorporated in the numbers of the publication yet to appear, Miss Shulze is engaged with Miss Jones's parents in the completion of the plan in which the two ladies originally joined; and Miss Jones's name will continue to be appropriately connected with that of the surviving *collaborateuse*. The present part gives three illustrations, being those of the Indigo bird, *Cyanospiza cyanea*, the marsh blackbird, *Agelaius phœniceus*, and the kingbird, *Tyrannus carolinensis*, with text of the crow blackbird, *Quiscalus æneus*. The work will continue in parts until the 100 plates are completed.—*Sarah O. Aiken, Washington, D. C.*

NICHOLSON'S MANUAL OF PALÆONTOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>—The present book consists of two volumes of nicely printed text, illustrated by many good engravings. The attractive appearance of the "Manual," and the fact that it contains a good deal of information, compiled from many sources, produces a favorable impression, and leads one to expect an able treatment of the subject matter. So far as regards the department of *Vertebrata* we are disappointed. The work, doubtless, has a value in bringing to the notice of students a considerable number of extinct forms, by furnishing good wood engravings. The cuts of recent *Vertebrata* are generally bad. But the definitions, especially those of the higher groups, are exceedingly defective, and the classifications adopted are generally antiquated or incorrect. In old world palæontology we find, for instance, the classification of *Stegocephali* ("*Labyrinthodontia*") of Mr. Miall incorporated bodily; a system, if such it can be called, where all sorts of characters have been put to impossible uses, and the laws of nomenclature extensively disregarded. Especial prominence has been given to American palæontology, but it is evident that, to use a political phrase, the delegation from the United States has been "fixed." The author has profited singularly little by the publications of the General and State Governments of America, but has apparently taken as his guide, Prof. O. C. Marsh's address before the American Association for 1877. This paper is well known here as little more than a record of what is taught by its author to the exclusion of other authorities, and on this account

<sup>1</sup> *A Manual of Palæontology for the use of Students, etc.* By HENRY ALLEYNE NICHOLSON, Prof. of Nat. History in the University of St. Andrews. 2 vol. Wm. Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh, 1879.

does not represent the subject to which it refers. If the author of the manual under review will examine into the claims of the nomenclature he has so extensively quoted from this source, he will find that a great part of it has either no foundation in analytical work, or has been proposed without regard to priority. Such are *Dinoceras*, *Brontothricidæ*, *Pliohippus*, etc., etc. The erroneous figure of the skull of *Coryphodon* is copied, when a correct one could easily have been found. Further attention to this department will enable the author to do it justice in a future edition.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—Anales del Museo Nacional de México. Tomo I, parts 1 to 7; pp. 399, pls. 13. Mexico, 1877-79. From the Museum.

The Monthly Journal of Science, and Annals of Biology, Astronomy, Geology, Industrial Arts, Manufactures, and Technology. 8vo, Vol. I, 3d Ser., No. LXXII, Dec., 1879. London. From the editor.

Bulletin Mensuel de la Société d'Acclimation. 3e Serie, Tome VI, No. 10. Paris, Oct., 1879. 8vo, 545-608. From the society.

The American Journal of Science and Arts. 3d Series, Vol. XVIII, No. 108. New Haven, Dec., 1879, with pl. III. From the editors.

Cerebral Topography. By S. V. Clevenger, M.D. (Repr. from Jour. of Nervous and Mental Disease, Oct., 1879). 8vo, pp. 27, 1 pl. From the author.

Geological Survey of Alabama. Report of Progress for 1877 and 1878. By Eugene A. Smith, Ph.D., State Geologist. 8vo, pp. 138, 3 maps. Montgomery, Ala., 1879. From the author.

Natural History Notes in Western North Carolina. By John T. Humphreys. Paper No. 10. A Hunt for Platinum in the Mountains of Western N. C. Single sheet, no date. From the author.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Pt. II, 1879. From the society.

Description of twelve new fossil species, and remarks upon others. By S. A. Miller. (Extr. from the Journ. of the Cincinnati Soc. Nat. History, July, 1879). 8vo, pp. 15, pls. 2. From the author.

Dr. H. G. Bronn's Klassen und Ordnungen des Thier-reichs, wissenschaftlich dargestellt in Wort und Bild. Gliederfüssler: Anthropoda, 28 und 29 Lieferung. 8vo, pp. 1201-1320. Säugethiere, 23, 24 und 25, Lieferung. 8vo, pp. 449-544, 7 pls. Leipzig and Heidelberg, 1879.

The California Horticulturist and Floral Magazine. 8vo, Vol. IX. San Francisco, Cal., Nov., 1879. From the editors.

The Journal of Botany, British and Foreign. 8vo, No. 204. London, Dec., 1879. From the editors.

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club. 8vo, Vol. VI. Nov., 1879. From the Club.

Grevillea, a Quarterly Record of Cryptogamic Botany and its Literature. 8vo, No. 46. D c., 1879. From the editor.

The Canadian Entomologist, Vol. XI, No. 12. Dec., 1879. London, Ontario. From the editors.

The Mound Builders: Being an account of a remarkable people that once inhabited the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, together with an investigation into the Archaeology of Butler Co., O. By J. P. MacLean. Illustrated. Sm. 8vo, pp. 233 and a map. Robt. Clarke & Co., Cincinnati, O. 1879. From the publishers.

Boletín del Ministerio de Fomento de la República Mexicana. Folio, Tomo IV, Núm. 136-48, Nov. 13th-Dec. 11th, 1879. From the Director of the Meteorological Observatory, Mexico.